

## POW's Wing Home Amid Controversy

### Trio Enmeshed In Politics While Still In Europe

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The three pilots flew home today, happy to be within hours of the land they left to fight a distant war, concerned about the hundreds of prisoners of war they left behind.

Lt. Norris Charles put it suc-

cintly shortly before he and two colleagues released by Hanoi took off for New York.

At a Copenhagen news conference he said the American people were in fact bringing the trio home. Then, concerning the remaining prisoners,

Charles told Americans:

"If you really want to bring these men home you can do it. If you really want to end the war you can do it. I call on you to help me bring the men home ... I can't feel too free when I consider the men who are left behind in North Vietnam."

Charles, his fellow Navy lieutenant junior grade Mark Gartley and Maj. Edward Elias of the Air Force appeared to be in fine shape as they arrived in Denmark after an overnight stay in Moscow. They had flown from Hanoi via Peking and Moscow, traveling on commercial planes in the company of a group of American antiwar activists. That was an effort to avoid any attempt by U.S. authorities to take the pilots into custody while en route.

Charles had been a prisoner of war almost a year. Gartley four years and Elias four months.

They shunned political statements today.

Gartley observed: "I've been away from the States for a very long time and not all the issues are clear to me. But whichever policy will bring the men home the fastest is the one I support the most."

Asked if Jane Fonda as a visitor to Hanoi had reported accurately that American prisoners of war favored the election of Sen. George McGovern, Gartley said the actress was "not qualified to speak for the opinions of the prisoners of war."

Elias observed that he had "a lot of reading to do" before feeling fully competent to discuss American politics.

The fliers had a short sight-seeing tour of Copenhagen before boarding a Scandinavian Airlines flight for New York.

When they reached Moscow there was a name-calling struggle between the activist group and a U.S. diplomat, centering on who would be in charge of the men's return home. There was nothing like that in Copenhagen — the official contact was brief and polite.

U.S. Charge D'Affaires Thomas Dunnegan offered the men a medical evacuation plane which they declined. Elias told Dunnegan that the prisoners' decision to continue home on their own "is the best thing for all of us and the men here."

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ON WAY BACK: The three U.S. prisoners of war recently released by North Vietnam, arrived at Copenhagen today on their way home via Moscow. At press conference after arrival are Mrs. and Lt. Norris Charles, Major Edward Elias, Lt. Mark Gartley, and his mother, Mrs. Gerald Gartley. The POWs are having their first wish fulfilled: a glass of pure water. (AP Wirephoto)

## Smiling Kissinger Stays Mum

# Peace Rumors Blossom

WASHINGTON (AP) — Henry A. Kissinger is back in the United States after a unique two-day meeting with top North Vietnamese negotiators, a meeting the White House denies produced a settlement of the war.

What, if anything, came from the Paris sessions remains a secret held by a handful of administration officials.

Kissinger talked to President Nixon by telephone Wednesday night after his return to Washington and will provide a complete report at the White House tonight after the chief executive returns from a campaign trip to California.

The President's chief foreign-policy adviser emerged from his Air Force plane smiling and looking relaxed, but he refused to meet with waiting reporters about his talks with Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy.

"I can't say anything," Kissinger shouted to newsmen who implored him to stay a while after his jet touched down on a rain-slicked runway at Andrews Air Force Base.

What the reporters wanted to ask about specifically was a report that an agreement had been reached to create a three-segment neutral regime in Saigon with a cease-fire going into effect in October.

In Paris, meanwhile, Thuy said rumors of an imminent agreement on a war settlement are "without foundation and contrary to the truth."

Thuy, who is North Vietnam's chief peace negotiator, said his delegation has been besieged with calls asking about rumors of an agreement.

"I want to make it clear that such speculation is without foundation and contrary to the truth," he said. The positions of the two sides "are still far apart and contradictory."

The Viet Cong's chief delegate, Nguyen Thi Binh, said that the rash of rumors about imminent peace seemed "aimed at deceiving American and world opinion."

She asked how there could be rumors about peace and a cease-fire "while the American extermination bombing continues violently in the two zones of Vietnam and the Nixon administration still opposes the legitimate demands of the South Vietnamese people."

She said these demands were clearly stated in the Viet Cong's Sept. 11 declaration which called for "cessation of the American war of aggression, cessation of support of the dictatorial, repressive regime of President Nguyen Van Thieu, and formation of a three-segment government of national concord."

U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter, arriving for the meeting, did not comment on the rumors. Instead he said the North Vietnamese were using the three freed American prisoners for "propaganda purposes which is an obvious infringement of the Geneva Convention of prisoners of war."

He said this is "par for the course for Hanoi."

Although Kissinger wouldn't discuss the meeting—his 18th secret session and the only one

to last more than a day—White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said in California the report of an accord had "no substance."

Substantive or not, the story originated by RKO broadcast White House correspondent Clifford Evans had a major effect on the New York stock market in late trading

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GOING HOME: Released U.S. Navy flyer Lt. Norris Charles and his wife, Olga, kiss shortly after their arrival at Moscow's International Airport from Peking Wednesday. Charles told reporters it was the American people who were bringing him and two fellow prisoners home and called on them to help him bring home those he left behind. (AP Wirephoto)

## Crime Spreading Fast From City Into Countryside

BY LYLE SUMERIX  
South Berrien Bureau  
CASSOPOLIS — The rising crime rate, coupled with mobility of criminals, was of prime concern to four southwestern Michigan sheriffs meeting here yesterday.

The sheriffs agreed that narcotics and related crimes were key factors in the high crime rate, and said that because of mobility, crime was no longer confined primarily to metropolitan areas.

Hosting the meeting of sheriffs at the Diamond Harbor Inn was James Northrop of Cass county. Guests were

Forrest "Nick" Jewell of Berrien county, Richard Stump of Van Buren county, and Neubert Balk of St. Joseph county.

To illustrate the problem, Northrop noted that complaints in his county have increased about 125 per cent over the past four years, with drugs and drug-caused crimes leading the list.

One of the most noticeable increases is in break-ins of private homes and businesses, said Northrop. This is particularly evident in counties bordering Indiana, because of people crossing the border to commit crimes.

"Of persons involved in crimes, only about 40 per cent live in Cass county, while the other 60 per cent are coming in from neighboring counties and across the state line," said Northrop.

He cited primary areas of influx as Elkhart, South Bend, Mishawaka and Benton Harbor.

"We can cope more readily with the mobility between counties, said Northrop. "It's the state line that often presents legal problems in

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SUMMIT MEETING: Sheriffs of four southwestern Michigan counties met yesterday to discuss problems in combating the rising crime rate, and to correlate more cooperation between their

departments. Pictured are, left to right, James Northrop of Cass county, Richard Stump of Van Buren county, Neubert Balk of St. Joseph county, and Forrest "Nick" Jewell of Berrien county. (Staff photo)

## Two Deer Killed By Galien Trucker

NEW BUFFALO — Although the hunting season is not in full swing yet, a Galien truck driver bagged two deer near here early today.

Winford Bennett, 34, told state police at New Buffalo he was westbound on U.S. 12 about 2 miles east of the city, when a buck and doe ran across the highway. Both animals were killed in the 1:40 a.m. accident.

No damage was reported to the truck or driver.

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**W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher**  
**Bert Lindenfeld, Managing Editor**

**CELLS CHANGED**  
LOS ANGELES (AP) -- An Israeli geneticist says he has changed normal cells into cancer cells and cancer cells back to normal cells in experiments.



## BPW Okays SJ Township Sewer Pact

**\$6.5 Million Contract  
Awaiting State Approval**

BY BRANDON BROWN  
Staff Writer

The Berrien county Board of Public Works (BPW) Wednesday stamped its tentative approval on a reduced \$6.5 million contract to build a county-backed sewage collection system for St. Joseph township.

The okay is tentative pending available financing, according to Thomas Sinn, Berrien planning director. The project is estimated at \$8 million total and has a \$1 million state grant offer. It now awaits Michigan Municipal Finance commission approval to sell \$7 million in bonds, Sinn said. St. Joseph township last week okayed the reduced contract.

Charles Barger, project engineer, explained to the BPW how he negotiated with low-bidder Balkema, Inc., of Kalamazoo to trim Balkema's bid of \$7,288,327.20 to a lower \$6,542,309.97.

Barger said he trimmed \$746,017.23 out by using cheaper resurfacing for roads torn up for sewer lines and jacking cast

iron pipe directly under two highways rather than jacking a sleeve through and running pipe through the sleeve.

The original contract called for blacktopping all roads disrupted by sewer work, while the reduced contract calls for replacing the same thickness and materials as presently exist, Barger said. Most roads have prime and double-seal, an oil and stone covering, he noted.

Road changes saved some \$125,000 and jacking saved some \$620,000, he said.

BPW members were leery of trouble like that experienced on the Hickory creek sewer interceptor south of St. Joseph—a dispute with the contractor that almost burgeoned into a court fight—but Barger reported his sources describe Balkema as a cooperative, first-rate contractor.

Meeting for two hours and 45 minutes in the courthouse, the BPW also paid nearly \$1.3 million in bills on six county-backed public works projects and heard reports of possible trouble brewing in two of them.

Dick Brissette and Jack Craigmile, contractor and engineer's representatives, respectively, on the Hickory creek interceptor sewer, reported they've been waiting in vain recently for a state highway department permit to lay pipe across the proposed route of I-94 business loop between Washington and Niles avenues in St. Joseph township.

The state highway department has indicated it wants large quantities of organic soil dug out and replaced with sand along some 600 feet of sewer line, a task not envisioned in the contract, Craigmile said.

"They're handing out edicts," Brissette said of the highway department. BPW Member Clifford Emlong wondered aloud whether it was politically motivated.

The issue wasn't resolved Wednesday, however.

Dick Stebbins, representing contractor Reed & Noyce on Watervliet township's sewer collection system, lamented rainy September weather and noted a potential problem: Stebbins' job has three sewage lift stations which "have to be kept activated" but which feed into another contractor's interceptor that presently has no outlet.

An engineer's representative is expected to take up the potential problem with contractors and report to the BPW next month.

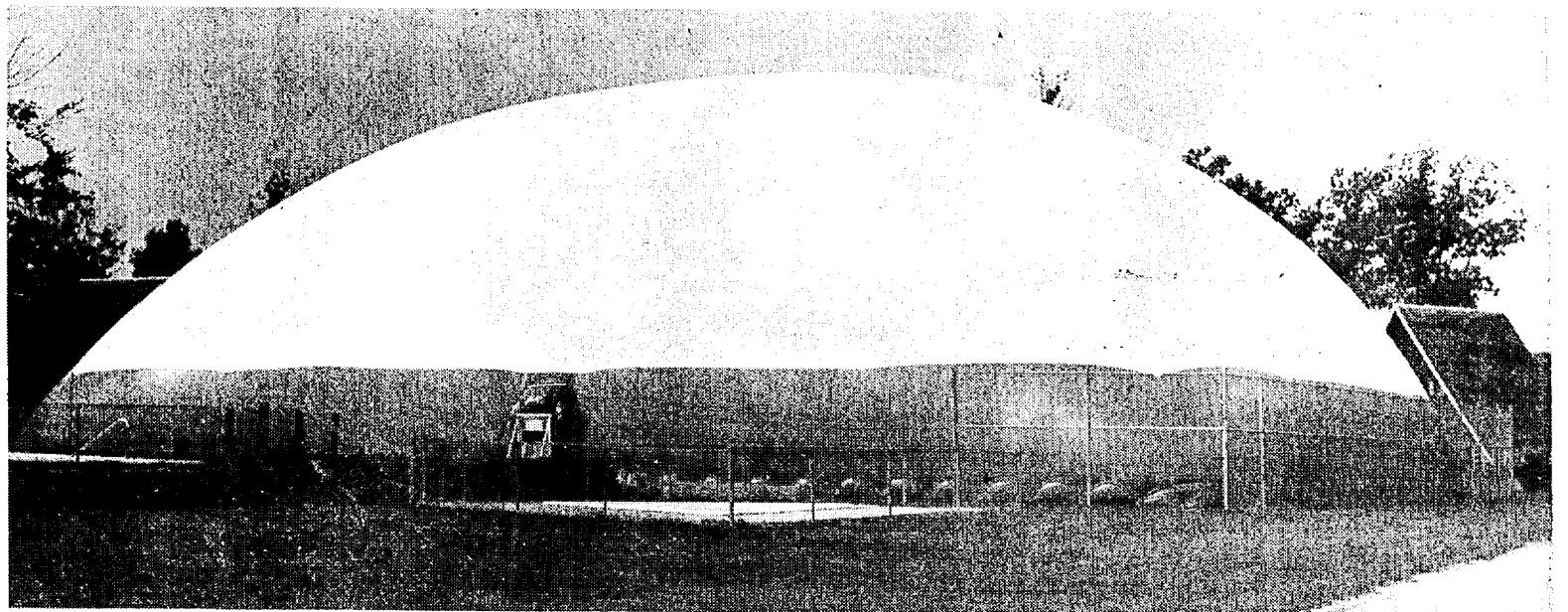
The BPW also:

—Voted to pay an \$11,007.25 bill by Detroit Atty. Charles Moon, counsel for the county in a now-settled legal dispute with Hickory interceptor contractor Yerington & Harris, Inc., of Benton Harbor.

—Heard Sinn report the federal Environmental Protection agency (EPA), has indicated orally the federal government believes a possible conflict-of-interest involving Watervliet Twp. Supervisor G.W. Hutchins is a local issue. Hutchins works for engineers on the township's federally-funded sewage system and the BPW is awaiting an attorney general's ruling on whether wearing those two hats is conflict of interest.

—Voted to pay \$163,659.10 in routine bills on Watervliet township's county-backed sewage system, but not including charges for Hutchins' services to engineers pending the attorney general's ruling.

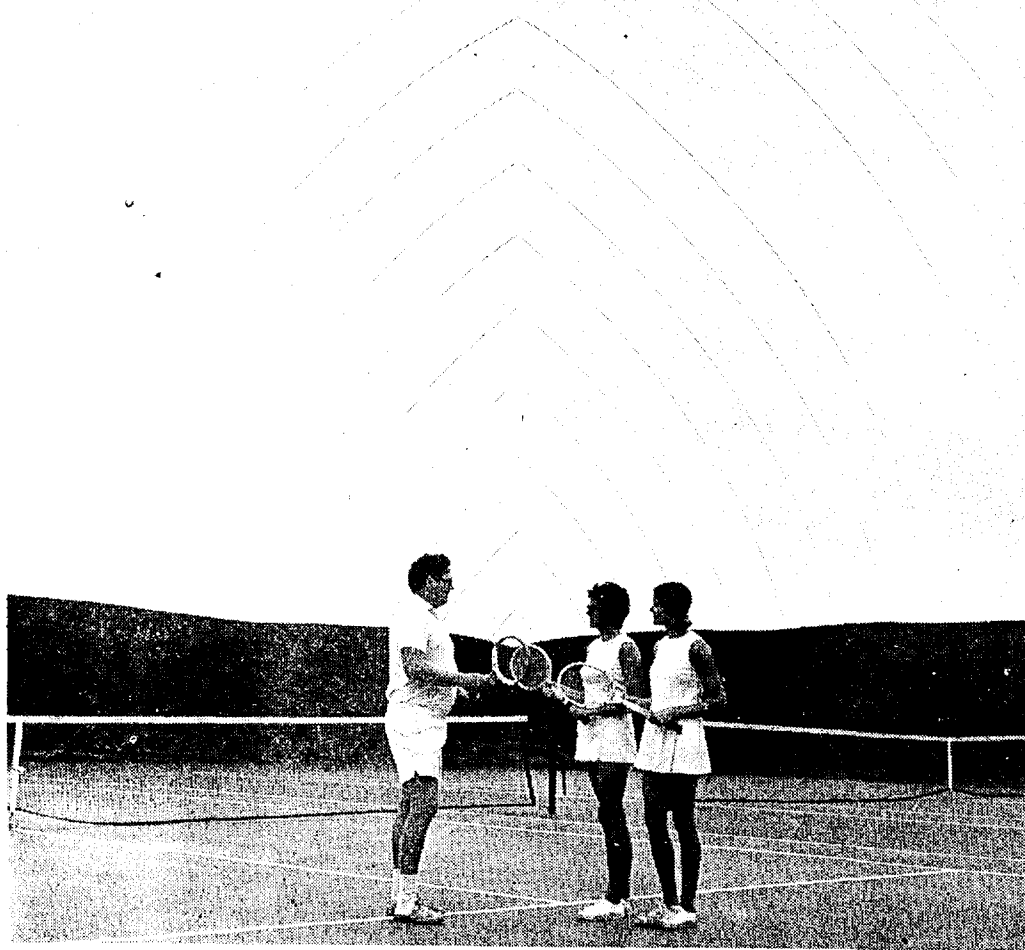
—And approved extending a gas line from Coloma city to the new Paw Paw lake-area sewage treatment plant at a cost of \$1,761.



**BIG BUBBLE:** It will be tennis the year around in this 34-foot high vinyl-coated nylon bubble over tennis courts at the Alpine Racquet club at the Chalets, Notre

Dame road, Stevensville. Manager Bob Piehl said giant tent covering 12,000 square feet, is first tennis court of its kind in Southwest Michigan. Club memberships

are being accepted. Tent is blown up by giant blower. Warm area in winter will permit tennis on coldest days. (Staff Photo)



**YOUR SERVE:** Fred Sadewater chats with Mrs. Jack Sparks (left) and Mrs. William Howard in the new Alpine Racquet Club bubble located on Notre Dame

road, Stevensville. Sadewater, former Benton Harbor High school tennis coach (1967-68) has been named tennis pro at the Racquet club. (Staff Photo)

## BH Attorney Joining Firm In Traverse City

Benton Harbor Atty. Ronald Sondee announced he will end practice here and join a Traverse City law firm.

Sondee is a member of the firm of Globensky, Gleiss, Sondee, Henderson & Bittner. In Traverse City, he will become a member of the firm of Murchie, Calcutt, Brown & Sondee. After the first of the year the firm is scheduled to become Murchie, Calcutt & Sondee.

The Traverse City firm has a well established practice. U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin formerly was associated with it.

Sondee, 37, said he expects to close out his affairs here by Nov. 1 and start practice in Traverse City.

Sondee and his wife, Mary Lynn, were involved in many community ventures since they moved here in 1961.

He was Benton Harbor city attorney, 1962-67; executive director of Area Resources Improvement council (ARIC), 1967-70, and has continued as a member of ARIC. He is incumbent chairman of the executive committee of the Mercy hospital board of trustees.

Mrs. Sondee is former executive director of the Planned Parenthood Association of Southwestern Michigan. She has taught in public schools here, was director of the junior choir at First Congregational church of Benton Harbor and active in Monday Musical.

Atty. and Mrs. Sondee are the parents of three sons and a daughter.

Sondee and his wife are both graduates of DePauw university, Greencastle, Ind. He was graduated from Duke university Law school in 1959

and practiced in Detroit before coming to Benton Harbor. The Sondees have resided in Fairplain.



ATTY. RONALD SONDEE



MRS. MARY LYNN SONDEE

## Local Women's Groups Will Hold Seminar On Election

**Meetings Begin Wednesday In SJ**

By BARBARA MAPES  
Women's Staff Writer

The St. Joseph-Benton Harbor YWCA and The League of Women Voters are sponsoring a three-part political seminar.

The meetings will be held on Wednesdays, starting Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Y.

At the first meeting Mrs. Thomas Plunkett will discuss the "Effect of Government on Your Daily Life." Following the talk, Mrs. Robert Larsen will present the methodology of the political process with emphasis on the presidential election process including both general information and the newly established reforms.

On Oct. 11 candidates in the contested county positions of Clerk, Treasurer and Commissioner in the third district will be presented.

Also candidates for the Lake

Michigan Board of Trustees which include Robert Carson, Ralph Catania, Helen Ford, Emily Foster, Eugene Harmon, Bernard Radde, Ralph Weir, Ray Wild and Sally Wilson.

Also scheduled are can-

didates seeking district judgeship on the non partisan ballot which are Hugh Black, Leo "Pat" Cook, Paul Pollard and Edward Yampolsky.

All the candidates will present their positions and answer questions, according to

Margaret Crisnal, executive director of the YWCA.

An interpretation of the special issues that will appear on the ballot will be given at the Oct. 18 seminar.

Issues to be discussed at the state level are abortion reform, daylight savings time, tax reform, constitutional amendment to allow a graduated income tax and educational bill for Vietnam veterans.

At the local level the special issues are Berrien County juvenile home, Benton Harbor city charter, rezoning in St. Joseph city and park commission in Lincoln township.

Miss Crisnal said ample time will be allowed for audience participation and there will be no charge for the seminar.

Further information may be obtained by calling the YWCA, a participating member of the United Community Fund.

## SJ Voter Registration Hours Announced

Extra voter registration hours for St. Joseph residents will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 4 and 5. City Clerk Charles Rhodes announced today.

The clerk's office will be open for voters who want to register before the Nov. 7 presidential election on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday, Oct. 6 to 8 p.m. but Rhodes said these dates are mandatory by state law.

The Wednesday and Thursday evening hours to register are in addition to daily registration from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

## Meaning Isn't 'Polluted'

**WATERVLIET** — A story appearing yesterday in this newspaper stated that Belgian student Philippe Bekaert said Watervliet means polluted water in Dutch.

According to Bekaert, who is currently visiting Watervliet, he said Watervliet means floating water.

Robert Flaherty, mayor of Watervliet, reported at Tuesday night's city commission meeting that Bekaert had said Watervliet means polluted water. At that time, Bekaert, who was attending the meeting, voiced no objection to the definition.

## Atty. Burkholz' Work Praised

Benton Harbor Atty. Zoe Shaffer Burkholz, a charter member of the Michigan Board of State Canvassers, was on home turf for the board's special meeting Wednesday.

It met in the courthouse, St. Joseph, a first-ever in St. Joseph and found this area a "delightful part of the state," according to Chairman Nathan Conyers of Detroit.

Mrs. Burkholz, sole candidate in November for a second probate judgeship in Berrien county, is bowing out of the board of canvassers on or before Dec. 31.

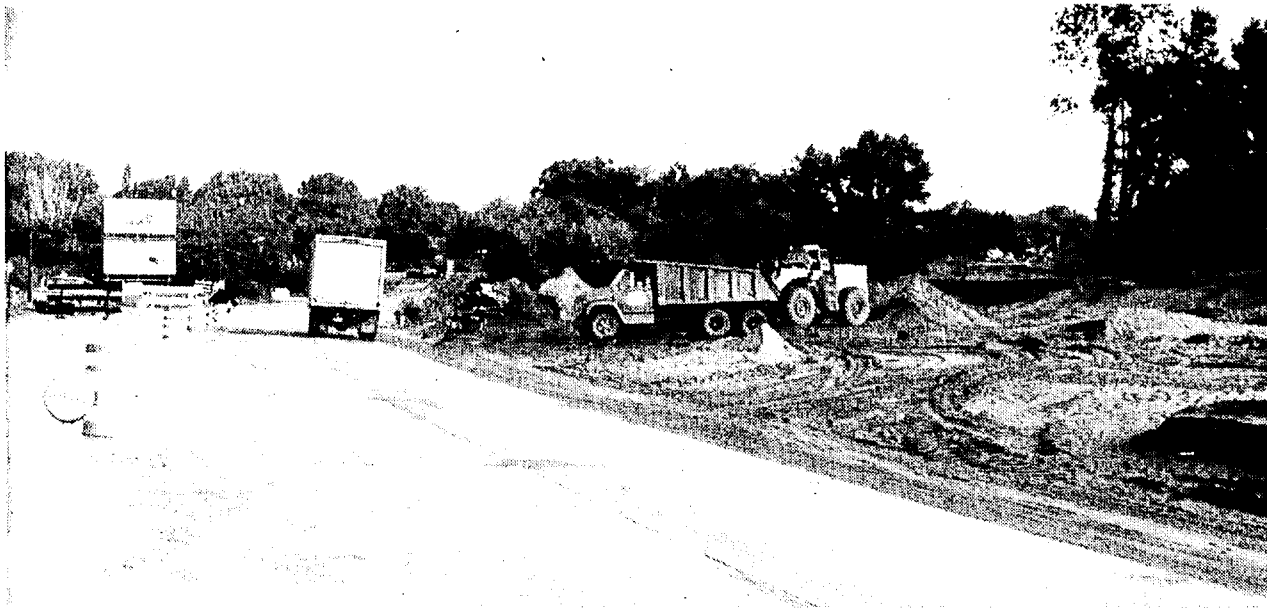
"We're not prepared to say goodbye to Zoe yet," Conyers said. "We hope she can be encouraged to stay on for a few more meetings yet."

Mrs. Burkholz has been a member of the board since its inception in 1955 after appointment to terms by four governors. The board certifies election results and selects wording of up to 100 words per question for statewide ballot propositions.

Wednesday's session was largely routine, devoted to approving minutes and setting up internal policies and procedures, for the board, Conyers reported.

"I've certainly enjoyed my tenure and it's been fine working on the state board of canvassers," Mrs. Burkholz said.

Board minutes reveal her contributions have been "excellent," Conyers said.



**BRANCHING OFF:** Graded area marks start of M-139 bypass, branching off M-139 near Ox creek, between Empire and Britain avenues east of Benton Harbor. View is looking northeast. New route will carry northbound traffic from this point to East Main, a distance of 1.24 miles.

Southbound traffic will travel Fair avenue. Project cost is \$1 million. John G. Yerington Concrete Co., Benton Harbor, is general contractor. Completion is targeted for fall, 1973. (Staff photos)



**FINAL STRETCH:** Toppled trees preceded widening of Pine street, between Highland avenue and Main street, as final stretch of M-139 construction. This view from Highland shows Pine at left, with Main a short block north, in background.

## Long-Awaited Relocation Of M-139 Is Underway

### Completion Target Is For Fall Of 1973

BY RALPH LUTZ  
Staff Writer

Only a long streak of good weather is needed now to make the long-sought M-139 relocation a reality by late next year.

Recent rains haven't helped, but construction work is proceeding in a multi-phase approach to the project in Benton township.

Simultaneous work includes installation of storm sewers, hauling away muck, setting of footings for a pedestrian overpass, and, most vital to the passerby, the bulldozing of land for the new route.

The M-139 relocation will carry northbound traffic only, from existing M-139 just north of Empire avenue, to East Main street. Total distance is 1.24 miles, and the cost is pegged at \$1 million.

When completed, Fair avenue will carry southbound traffic only, from East Main to the junction of the new route on M-139.

John G. Yerington Concrete Co., Benton Harbor, was awarded the construction contract on a low bid of \$988,247.59.

A company spokesman said completion is targeted for fall of 1973, adding that good weather is hoped for now to keep up a fast start.

Barricades now slow traffic along two lanes of traffic left open between Empire and Britain. This is a short stretch of ancillary construction where the bypass branches off in a northeast direction.

Since last week when work began, bulldozers have cut a path almost to Main street, from Ox creek. The large swath of plowed earth and cut trees cuts across Britain avenue, northward, behind the Buss avenue housing project to Highland, and northward from Highland, along Pine, one block south of Main, where trees are piled up for clearance.

Footings for the pedestrian overpass are being fixed behind the housing project, just east of Siele street. The overpass is to enable area residents to walk safely over the M-139 bypass. The one mucky spot to be eliminated is by Ox creek, just east of M-139.

When completed, the M-139 complex will have these basic dimensions, according to Yerington spokesman.

The existing M-139 remains a five-lane highway, carrying north and south traffic between the 194 overpass on the south and the new northbound bypass on the north at Ox creek.

The northbound bypass will be 36 feet wide and have two northbound travel lanes. Besides these, extra turning lanes will be built at intersections.

Southbound Fair avenue will remain a 40-foot wide street. It has four lanes for traffic, with curb parking prohibited.

New construction is all in Benton township. The Michigan State Highway department, however, acquired a slightly less than two-acre parcel of land from the City of Benton Harbor for part of the bypass right of way. Purchase price was \$90,000 for the land in the eastern portion of the Buss avenue housing project.

Two project apartment buildings, with a total of eight living units, were torn down, after families were relocated.

Construction of the bypass eliminates more than a decade of plans, legal setbacks and the shock of a traffic accident that claimed three lives.

Traffic along M-139 mounted over the years, and became congested with the development of Fairplain plaza and surrounding shopping areas near Napier avenue.

Tentative plans for M-139 improvement were advanced in 1962. All included widening M-139 along its current five-lane stretch, completed in 1969. Various routes were advanced for a by-pass, however, and all fell through.

The community was shocked in September, 1965, when three persons died in a traffic accident on the then narrow M-139, about a half-mile south of Fairplain plaza. The same year produced a notable setback in the bypass plan of the moment.

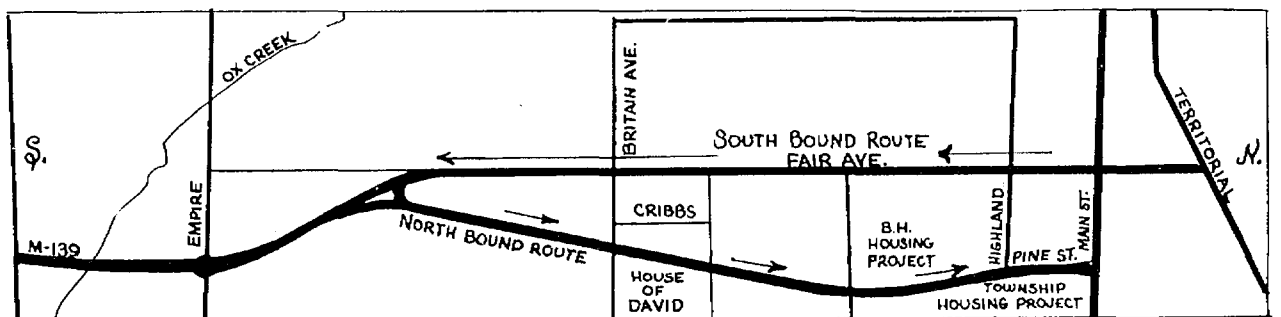
The northbound route then was planned to carry traffic across East Main, northward along Forest to Waukonda avenue, and then west along Waukonda to US-31, north of the Twin Cities. Waukonda was to have been extended, and the route was to have crossed Paw Paw avenue en route. About \$140,000 was spent in land purchases for rights of way.

The Chesapeake & Ohio railroad objected to the route crossing its tracks, just west of Paw Paw. The Michigan Public Service commission ordered that any by-pass built here be constructed as an overpass

above the tracks. The Michigan Supreme court upheld the commission order, and the plan was aborted.

The bypass now under construction brings all earlier plans to some kind of fruition,

but it also has critics. While construction is in the township, the Benton Harbor city commission has heard the criticism over new highways seemingly always being built in black neighborhoods.



**NEW M-139 ROUTE:** Arrows show traffic flow directions planned for M-139 in Benton township, upon completion of north bound bypass (below).

### Gen Tel Spending \$9 Million

## Why Phones Keep Ringing

BY TOM RENNEN

South Haven Correspondent  
**CASSOPOLIS** — Expansion and improvement programs costing \$9.3 million will be undertaken in southwestern Michigan during 1973 by the General Telephone company.

The programs for the southern division of Gen Tel were outlined last night during the company's 11th annual press conference here by division manager W.D. Hansen.

The southern division ser-

vices 113 southwestern Michigan communities through 39 exchange offices in Allegan, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties.

The \$9,325,800 program is the largest ever undertaken for the company's southwest Michigan service area according to Hansen. It follows service improvement and expansion expenditures of \$35 million made over the last five years, including a \$9 million program

currently being completed for 1972.

Hansen said that rural service will be reduced to no more than four parties per line in eight additional exchanges including Allegan, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg, Gobles, Hamilton and Lawton.

In addition, two exchanges — Decatur and Sister Lakes — are scheduled for upgraded service; no more than one or two party service in the urban area.

Buildings to house additional equipment at Covert and Decatur will cost \$241,000.

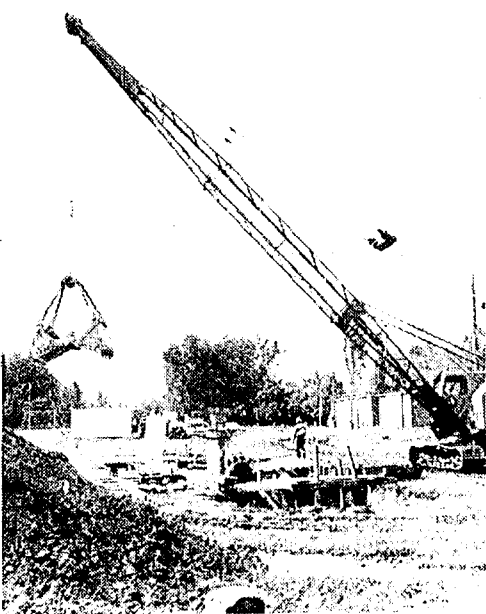
Expenditures by communities include Allegan, \$493,000; Bangor, \$2,900; Cassopolis, \$60,500; Covert, \$9,700; Decatur, \$270,900; Dowagiac, \$713,200; Edwardsburg, \$221,300; Fennville, \$3,000; Ganges, \$1,200; Gobles, \$142,400; Hamilton, \$103,900; Hartford, \$2,500; Lawton, \$324,800; Mattawan, \$33,500; Paw Paw, \$257,700; Saugatuck, \$172,200; Sister Lakes, \$184,600; South Haven, \$425,200 and South Haven, \$425,200.

Hansen noted that the 1973 program represents an average investment of \$90 for each of the 163,200 telephones in

the southern division. Total capital investment in land, buildings and equipment for the division is now over \$70.5 million or \$683 per telephone in service he further explained.



**IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM:** Walter Hansen, left, manager of the southern division of General Telephone company, and Rick Trestain, South Haven district manager, go over plan for 1973 improvements in the division. The \$9.3 million program was outlined for news media representatives last night at firm's 11th annual news conference.



**PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS:** Framed by power shovel, workmen install footings for overpass to enable pedestrians to walk safely over northbound M-139. At right is a Buss avenue public housing project apartment building.